

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION & RECREATION  
JOINT POWERS BOARD  
MAY 27, 2016**

**Members Present:** Dave Baumgart, Sally Calvin, Matt Dawson, Scott Guptill, Allen Huselid, Tim Johnson, Audrey Nelson, Pablo Obregon, Rachel Skretvedt, Darin Strand, Liz VanDerBill

**Staff Present:** Steve Brisendine, Rob Baumgarn, Casey Hagert, Kevin Halliday, Ryan Harper, Larry Kruse, Scott Ledeboer, Becky Sorenson, Pam Vruwink

**Guests Present:** Stewart Crosby, SRF Consulting Group; Richard & Ben from Engan Associates; Mike Gramm from Willmar Lakes Rotary

1. Chairman Darin Strand called the meeting to order.

2. Liquor Permit: Mike Gramm, with Willmar Lakes Rotary, presented the Rotary's request for a liquor permit for the Rocking Robbins' concerts, July 19 and August 16. He stated that he hoped the concerts at Robbins Island this summer would bring people and be a good promotion for the Island. Darin asked who will be serving the beer. Mr. Gramm responded that there will be training in how to serve, how to recognize if someone has had enough, etc. Wrist bands will be used and there will be a police presence during the event.

Scott Guptill asked if people can take the beer throughout the park. Kevin Halliday stated it has been the norm to have an orange fence to keep the beer drinkers in one area. Liz VanDerBill stated that she thought it would be good if we didn't have the fence if we are trying to make this a family friendly event. Rachel Skretvedt made a motion to allow Rocking Robbins' to have liquor sales at the concerts. Dave Baumgart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Liquor Ordinance Revisions: City Clerk Kevin Halliday handed out copies of the Willmar Code portion concerning temporary licenses and talked about proposed changes. He stated that Section 3-173 Eligibility is a State code and cannot be changed. Section 3-5 ( c ) 1 can be amended to include social affairs (concert, private sector). Liz VanDerBill made a motion to include social affairs to ( c ) 1. Audrey Nelsen seconded the motion. Allen Huselid asked if we would be opening ourselves up to future problems. Kevin Halliday responded that it would be no different than now. Matt Dawson asked if the City Council would make the decision. Kevin Halliday said that if this Board passes the motion, it goes to the City Council who then asks the City Attorney to draft the proposed paperwork which would be presented at a public hearing. Audrey Nelsen asked if now would be the time to change the existing format so each group doesn't have to go through the process each time. After some discussion, the motion passed.

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4. Kiwanis Peanut Fundraiser: Casey Hagert talked about the request CER had made to fund scholarships for many needy students. \$5,000 was granted upon successful completion of peanut sales. Staff will be contacting board members to assist them with the distribution of peanuts late this summer.

5. Rice Park Project: Stewart Crosby of SRF Consulting talked about the plans they have developed for Rice Park. He handed out drawings of the proposed plans. Richard Engan talked about the shelter. It is planned for approximately the same location as the current shelter. Plan 1 is a combination shelter (capacity of 30) with a three season section (capacity of 15) on the north side and attached restroom and service/storage area. Plan 2 is an open shelter with a separate restroom/storage building nearby.

Richard asked if a three season area is what the group wants. A decision has to be made about that because different footings would be needed for that space. Dave Baumgart asked if there was any cost difference if the storage/restroom area was separate or attached to the main shelter. Richard replied he did not think there would be much difference. Darin Strand asked what the cost difference would be to have an enclosed area. Richard replied that it would depend on what type of enclosed shelter (i.e. screen, glass). Rachel Skretvedt said, as a parent, she would prefer the restroom be attached to the shelter.

Audrey Nelsen feels we should go with a three season shelter, looking to the future. She felt we should try to accomplish as much of this project calls for in the park plan while staying within budget.

Pablo Obregon asked what the capacity of Rice Shelter is now. Scott Ledeboer said there are 4-6 picnic tables. Pablo stated he thinks the shelter needs to be bigger. Rachel Skretvedt asked about how much of the plaza area will be beyond the spray area. Stewart stated he would like to see as much plaza areas as possible to allow for many site lines and people to be around that part of the park.

Darin Strand asked Scott Ledeboer about maintenance. Scott stated he doesn't think it's a good idea to leave enclosed shelters unlocked due to vandalism concerns. He feels that maintenance costs would be similar to today's costs. Scott Guptill asked if an enclosed shelter would be more prone to vandalism than an open shelter. Scott Ledeboer agreed that was possible.

Stewart mentioned the direction of the shelter. Engan had moved it from a north/south to an east/west view which opens the shelter up to better viewing.

Darin Strand asked if the shelter can be built as an open shelter and changed to an enclosed shelter sometime in the future. Richard Engan said that is easier said than done. An enclosed shelter would need to have more frost features in the storage area. Adding electric heat in the storage area and restrooms has been talked about for use during those times when we get an unexpected cold spell so maintenance crew doesn't have to shut water down to avoid freezing pipes.

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Darin Strand asked what the cost difference would be between an open and enclosed shelter. Richard Engan stated the difference would be \$100,000 or less. Stewart stated the plans were made with Rice Park being the focal point of the downtown area. He visualizes Rice as being a heavily used area and given this is the first project since the adoption of the park plan we want it to be a hallmark project.

Rachel Skretvedt asked if the enclosed part would be glass so you could see the splash pad. Richard stated glass, if used, would need to be windows that can be opened. Larry Kruse asked about the feasibility of reservations when so many would be in the park. Steve replied that only the enclosed section would be reserved. Allen Huselid thinks the capacity of 15 in the enclosed section is limiting.

Stewart asked for a vote on two points – one or two buildings and open or enclosed. The vote on one or two buildings was unanimously in favor of one building. The vote on open was 4 and 6 for the combination open & enclosed. Richard asked about restroom doors. Everyone agreed they should face south.

Pablo Obregon asked about tennis and horseshoe courts. Steve stated that, at present, we will leave them as is. Once we get Miller tennis courts build, then the tennis courts at Rice can be removed.

6. Executive Committee Meeting CIP discussion: 2017 Park Plan – proposed Miller Park projects – tennis courts, playground equipment; concession stand at North Swansson (hoping to complete for July tournament). \$100,000 is requested for playground equipment.

7. Other: Update on a group destination playground - \$800,000 at Robbins Island. Placement of the equipment was discussed. The group wants the playground equipment close to the highway for visibility. Those not in favor of the highway location think that, once it gets built, people will know where it is. Larry Kruse asked if we want to stick with the park plan or make changes.

Larry Kruse talked about the local option sales tax. The ideas for the revenue from the proposed sales tax would be the Civic Center – refrigeration upgrade; Swansson field – lighting upgrade, Community Center – new or upgrades to the existing building and Robbins Island upgrades. Mr. Kruse stated there are \$100 million plus of needs in the City. Sales tax option is one way to accelerate funding.

Matt Dawson stated that the Civic Center was built to be added onto. He thinks that a Community Center could be added to the Arena. He also feels that Community Ed & Rec could have their office there. He thinks the community center (senior center) is out of date and should be modernized to this day and age. He asked if there was anything Joint Powers Board can do to encourage the City Council to get behind some projects. Larry Kruse answered that everyone should complete the survey.

As there was no further business, Pablo Obregon made a motion to adjourn. Sally Calvin seconded. Motion carried.